



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 18, 2008

### **H.R. 6339**

### **Federal Employees Deserve to Volunteer on the Elections Act of 2008**

*As ordered reported by the Committee on House Administration on July 30, 2008*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 6339 would authorize the appropriation of \$75 million for the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to provide grants to state governments to recruit and train poll workers. In addition, the legislation would provide executive branch employees with up to six days of paid leave per year for training and working at polling stations on election days.

Assuming appropriation of the specified and necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 6339 would cost about \$75 million over the 2009-2013 period. Although the bill could affect agencies not funded through annual appropriations (such as the Tennessee Valley Authority or the U.S. Postal Service), CBO estimates that any net increase in spending by those agencies would not be significant. As a result, enacting the bill would have a negligible impact on direct spending and would not affect revenues.

H.R. 6339 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 6339 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall primarily within budget function 800 (general government).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2009-
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Grants to States for Poll Workers						
Authorization Level	75	0	0	0	0	75
Estimated Outlays	75	0	0	0	0	75
Administrative Leave for Government Poll Workers						
Estimated Authorization Level	*	*	*	*	*	*
Estimated Outlays	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	75	*	*	*	*	75
Estimated Outlays	75	*	*	*	*	75

Note: \* = less than \$500,000.

## BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 6339 will be enacted near the beginning of fiscal year 2009, that the amounts authorized will be appropriated for each year, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for similar programs. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 6339 would cost about \$75 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the those amounts.

### Grants to States for Poll Workers

Section 3 would authorize the appropriation of \$75 million in fiscal year 2009 for grants to states for recruiting and training poll workers. Based on information from the EAC, CBO estimates that those amounts would be spent in 2009.

### Administrative Leave for Government Poll Workers

Section 2 would allow federal employees to receive up to six days of paid administrative leave per year to serve as poll workers for elections. The leave would be similar to court leave (which allows for paid time off for service as a juror or witness). Under the legislation,

the leave could be used to train for and work at polling stations on election days. Based on the information from the Office of Personnel Management regarding the volunteer rates of the working-age population at polling stations and the use of current administrative leave programs, CBO estimates that enacting section 2 would result in a negligible cost. That cost would reflect an increase in salary payments to federal employees for increased costs of accrued annual leave that otherwise might be used for poll service.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 6339 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would benefit state governments by providing grants to recruit and train poll workers.

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